

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01765

ENDED. BECAUSE OF THE TECHNICAL NATURE OF THE
DOCUMENTS AND ALSO BECAUSE THE 33RD GA WILL HAVE EDITORIAL
AND REPRODUCTION PRIORITY FOR ITS REPORTS, DOCUMENTS
FOR THE FEBRUARY 1979 SESSION WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF
CONFERENCE SERVICES BEFORE SEPTEMBER.

10. GOLDBERG PROCEEDED TO OUTLINE THE SCHEDULE FOLLOWED
IN PRODUCING DOCUMENTS, DETAILING EVERY STEP OF THE ONE
AND ONE-QUARTER YEAR PROCESS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT AT
ALL STAGES THERE WAS CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
MANAGERS AND SUBSTANTIVE WRITERS OF THE STATISTICAL
OFFICE. THE STANDARDS AND DEADLINES FOR DOCUMENTS WERE
SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION AT THE INITIAL STAGES BUT ONCE THE
GUIDELINES AND SCHEDULE HAD BEEN SET IT WAS EXPECTED
THAT THE DRAFTERS WOULD MEET THE MUTUALLY AGREED UPON
DEADLINES. GOLDBERG SAID THAT THE PAPERS WERE USUALLY
WELL DRAFTED BECAUSE THE DRAFTERS REALIZED
THAT BECAUSE OF THE TECHNICAL NATURE OF THE
MATERIAL A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF EDITING SHOULD HAVE TO BE
DONE BY CONFERENCE SERVICES. HE CONCLUDED BY STATING
THAT THE MOTTO OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE WAS "A GOOD
PAPER ON TIME IS MORE VALUABLE THAN A HIGHLY POLISHED
PAPER TOO LATE."

11. US ASKED HOW THE STATISTICAL OFFICE AVOIDED THE
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"REPORTING SYNDROME" OF DUPLICATE REQUESTS AND HOW
IT MAINTAINED SUCH HIGH STANDARDS OF INTERNAL DISCIPLINE
AND EDITORIAL QUALITY. FRANCE INQUIRED AS TO
THE FEASIBILITY OF PRODUCING AN ORIGINAL DRAFT IN THE
DRAFTER'S NATIVE TONGUE IF IT WERE OTHER THAN ENGLISH.

12. GOLDBERG RESPONDED THAT HIS UNIT WAS ABLE TO AVOID
DUPLICATION OF REPORTS BECAUSE THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION
ITSELF SCREENS THE REQUESTS FOR REPORTS IN ORDER TO HOLD
DUPLICATION TO A MINIMUM. HE SAID INTERNAL DISCIPLINE

WAS MAINTAINED BECAUSE OF THE RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE UNIT WHICH RESULTED FROM FREQUENT MEETINGS BETWEEN MANAGERS AND DRAFTERS. THIS EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP EXTENDED TO THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION. AS A GROUP OF EXPERTS IT UNDERSTOOD WHEN THE STATISTICAL OFFICE COULD NOT PRODUCE A DOCUMENT BECAUSE OF LACK OF INPUT FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES. WITH RESPECT TO EDITORIAL STANDARDS, HE SAID HIS OFFICE HAD A NUMBER OF GOOD WRITERS AS WELL AS ONE OR TWO PEOPLE WHO SERVED AS EDITORS. GOLDBERG SAID ALTHOUGH ENGLISH WAS THE PREFERENCE OF STAFF MEMBERS, IF SOMEONE WANTED TO DRAFT IN HIS OWN LANGUAGE HE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO SO.

13. MRS. SOL NAHON, OF THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN BRANCH, GAVE A LENGTHY APOLOGIA FOR THE DOCUMENTS PROBLEMS ENDEMIC TO HER UNIT. SHE BLAMED THE PROBLEMS ON, INTER ALIA, ITS BROAD INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM, THE FACT IT MUST PRODUCE DOCUMENTS FOR THE GA, ECOSOC AND THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, AND UNDUE REQUESTS BY THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT. WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER, SHE COMPLAINED THAT THE EDITORIAL PEOPLE HAD TOO MUCH FREEDOM IN REVISING OR ASKING FOR MORE PAGES IN THE REPORTS HER UNIT PRODUCED. NAHON AVOIDED ANSWERING UNCLASSIFIED

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SPECIFICALLY ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO HOW THE WOMEN'S BRANCH COULD IMPLEMENT BETTER MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES TO COPE WITH ITS PROBLEMS.

14. GUSTAVE FEISSEL OF THE CTNC TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT BECAUSE OF THE CENTER'S NEWNESS AND BECAUSE OF THE INTERDISCIPLINARY NATURE OF TNC STUDIES, THE CENTER WAS JUST ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES ON DOCUMENTS PRODUCTION. HE ADDED THAT ONE OF THE CENTER'S FUNCTIONS, TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM ON TNCs TO ASSIST GOVERNMENTS, WAS AN ONGOING PROCESS WITHOUT DEADLINES. IN RESPONSE TO A US QUESTION ON WHAT CONTROLS EXISTED TO GET DOCUMENTS OUT ON TIME, FEISSEL SAID THE CENTER ACTS ON THE ESTABLISHED DEADLINES FOR DOCUMENTS. IN MOST CASES A STUDY TAKES UP TO TWO YEARS. FEISSEL SAID MANY DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY TNC ARE FOR GOVERNMENTS AND ARE NOT SUBJECT TO DEADLINES OF THE SORT THAT AFFECT DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR MEETINGS. HE OFFERED NO FURTHER SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON HOW MANAGERIAL DISCIPLINE WAS MAINTAINED.

15. IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES WILL BEGIN ITS SUBSTANTIVE SESSION ON MONDAY, MAY 8, AT 10:30 A.M. YOUNG

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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Draft Date: 03 may 1978
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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